

the PLC is transmitted to the smart module to instruct the module what initial configuration to assume. When a hand held programmer is used either to program smart module with configuration information or to monitor the status of the smart module, the programmer sends a data request to the module using such selected unique parameters numbers as desired. In response, the module returns the parameter data stored in the module corresponding to these particular parameter numbers. A SEND CONFIGURATION FILE command is used by the PLC 15 to send the configuration data to the smart module.

Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would recognize “configuration file”, as the term is commonly used, refers to a file that stores initialization information.

Claim 1 recites a method for storage and retrieval of programs and data within a PLC system wherein the PLC system includes a plurality of modules including a memory host module that includes a CPU and memory, at least one option module that includes a CPU and memory, a backplane that interconnects the memory host module and the option module wherein the method includes the steps of “storing in the memory of the memory host module an operating program and data for the option module...retrieving the operating program and data from the memory of the memory host module.”

Sexton et al. do not describe nor suggest a method for storage and retrieval of programs and data within a PLC system wherein the method includes the steps of storing in the memory of the memory host module an operating program and data for the option module, and retrieving the operating program and data from the memory of the memory host module. Specifically, Sexton et al. do not describe nor suggest storing in the memory of the memory host module an operating program for the option module, but rather describe providing a control program to the PLC to control the operation of the PLC with respect to a particular controlled process. In further contrast to the present invention, Sexton et al. do not describe nor suggest retrieving the operating program and data from the memory of the memory host module, but rather, describe returning from the module, parameter data stored in the module corresponding to particular parameter numbers in response to a data request by the handheld programmer. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Sexton et al.

Claims 2-9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-9 likewise are patentable over Sexton et al.

Claim 10 recites a memory host for a programmable logic controller (PLC) system wherein the system includes at least one option module that further includes an option module memory and wherein the memory host includes a memory, a central processing unit (CPU), and a backplane interface wherein the memory host is configured to “store an operating program and data in the memory for the at least one option module...retrieve the operating program and data from the memory.”

Sexton et al. do not describe nor suggest a memory host for a programmable logic controller (PLC) system wherein the memory host includes a memory, and wherein the memory host is configured to store an operating program in the memory for the at least one option module, and retrieve the operating program and data from the memory. Specifically, Sexton et al. do not describe nor suggest a memory host that is configured to store an operating program in it's own memory for the at least one option module, but rather Sexton et al. describe providing a control program to the PLC to control the operation of the PLC with respect to a particular controlled process. In further contrast to the present invention, Sexton et al. do not describe a memory host that is configured to retrieve the operating program from the memory, but rather describe returning from the module, parameter data stored in the module corresponding to particular parameter numbers in response to a data request by the handheld programmer. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Sexton et al.

Claims 11-24 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11-24 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 11-24 likewise are patentable over Sexton et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-24 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert B. Rees', is written over a horizontal line.

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